

What is Claimed is:

1. A solar-powered watercraft comprising
a craft body including a deck;
at least one pontoon having a centerline of flotation secured in depending relation
5 from said body;
a canopy secured to said body and disposed above said deck, wherein said canopy
includes means for receiving solar radiation;
at least one battery pack for powering said watercraft, wherein said pack is secured to
said pontoon; and
10 means for transferring energy from the solar reception means to the battery pack.
2. The watercraft of claim 1, wherein the battery pack is mounted on an exterior surface
of the pontoon.
- 15 3. The watercraft of claim 1, wherein the battery pack is mounted at least partially inside
the pontoon.
4. The watercraft of claim 1, wherein the canopy further comprises a headliner disposed
substantially parallel to and in vertically spaced relation from the solar reception
20 means to define a ventilation space between the solar reception means and the
headliner.
5. The watercraft of claim 4, wherein the canopy further comprises means for flowing
air through the ventilation space.
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6. The watercraft of claim 5, wherein the airflow means comprises a fan connected in
circuit to a thermostatic switch.
7. The watercraft of claim 1, wherein said solar reception means comprises at least one
30 solar panel.

8. The watercraft of claim 7, wherein the solar panel comprises a non-flexible monocrystalline or polycrystalline module.

9. The watercraft of claim 1, wherein the pontoon includes

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a forward section including a terminal end, wherein the terminal end has a taper defining a water-cutting edge;

an intermediate portion, wherein the intermediate portion includes the centerline of flotation; and

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an aft section including a terminal end, wherein the terminal end has both a rearward taper and a downward taper.

10. The watercraft of claim 1 further comprising means for containing the battery pack located near the flotation centerline.

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11. The watercraft of claim 10, wherein the battery pack containing means comprises means for air inlet and means for air outlet.

12. The watercraft of claim 1 wherein the means for transferring energy from the solar reception means to the battery pack comprises a control console secured above the deck.

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13. The watercraft of claim 12, wherein the control console comprises means for ventilating air.

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14. The watercraft of claim 13, wherein the air ventilation means comprises a fan connected in series to a thermostatic switch.

15. The watercraft of claim 1, wherein the watercraft possesses an aft-oriented trim at rest or in motion.

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16. A pontoon for a watercraft comprising
- 5 a forward section having a terminal end;
 an intermediate section including a flotation centerline;
 an aft section having a terminal end; and
 means for containing at least one battery pack secured to the intermediate section.
17. The pontoon of claim 16, wherein the battery pack containing means is mounted on
10 the exterior surface of the pontoon.
18. The pontoon of claim 16, wherein the means for containing a battery pack is mounted
 at least partially inside the pontoon.
19. The pontoon of claim 16, wherein the battery pack containing means comprises
15 means for air inlet and means for air outlet.
20. The pontoon of claim 16, wherein the battery pack containing means is located near
 the flotation centerline.
21. The pontoon of claim 16, wherein at least part of the battery pack containing means is
20 located between the flotation centerline and the aft terminal end.
22. The pontoon of claim 16, wherein the terminal end of the aft section has both a
 rearward taper and a downward taper.
23. A method of increasing charging efficiency of a solar-powered watercraft comprising
25 the step of flowing air through a canopy secured to the watercraft, wherein the canopy
 includes a headliner disposed substantially parallel to and in vertically spaced relation
 from the means for receiving solar radiation to define a ventilation space between the
 solar reception means and the headliner.